McMurrich, James Playfair, 1859-1939 (Professor of Anatomy) Sept. 1919 - May 1920 (055)

[Sept 27, 1919]

728

University of Toronto
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Sir

Dr Earl Smith has written that he cannot undertake the work of a Demonstratorship in Anatomy this year

Dr W. E. Brown M.B., 84 Carleton St. was omitted by mistake from my original list. He is entitled to a remuneration of $100.- having already served a year

Yours faithfully
Mayfair McMurrich

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

September 27th., 1919.

President Falconer,

University of Toronto.

Dear President Falconer:-

I beg to recommend the following appointments to the staff of the Anatomical Department for the coming session.

Paid in 1918-19 750.

Demonstrator in charge of Dental Students.

T. A. Robinson, M.B., C.M., 147 Howard Park Av. $750

Assistants:

~~Demonstrators:-~~

50. R. E. Gaby, B.A., M.B., 662 Bathurst $150
50. F. W. Weston, B.A., M.B., 45 Avenue Road $100
50. J. S. Simpson, M.D., C.M., M.R.C.S. 137 Avenue Rd $100
50. R. O. Fisher, M.B., M.R.C.S. 343 Sherbourne St $100
50. R. I. Harris, M.B. Dominion Orthopaedic Hospital $100
50. G. M. Dale, B.A., M.B. 591 Church St. $100
50. # ~~R.~~ L. Rowntree, M.B. 1203 Bloor St. $100
- without salary. R. J. P. McCullough, M.B., M.R.C.S. 102 College $100
new. D. Cruikshank, M.B. $ 50
new. H. B. Van Wyck, B.A., M.B. 154 Danforth Rd. $ 50
new. A. S. Lawson, M.B. 82 College St. $ 50
50. (1914-15) × Earl Smith, M.B. 311 Avenue Rd. $ 50

1050.

Assistants:

~~Demonstrators~~ (voluntary)

E. E. Shouldice, M.B. III Empress Crescent
R. P. Cromarty, B.A., M.Sc., M.B. 1920 Queen E.
F. G. Banting, M.B. Dominion Orthopaedic Hospital
K. G. McKenzie, M.B. 241 Jarvis St.
G. W. Carleton, M.B. 1222 Gerrard St.
G. L. Brayley, M.B. 458 Spadina Ave.

Pd Robinson for 1918-19. 750. is not certified in this amount # 1800

Yours very truly,

Maylan M Macnicol

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

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October 4th., 1919.

President Falconer,
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir Robert:-

Some time ago I entered into a correspondence with Dr. Stephen Duggan, Secretary of the Institute of International Education and asked him if he would be kind enough to let me know what men were coming out under the auspices of his Association as Exchange Professors, thinking that possibly we might be able to have lectures from some of them, even though we could not co-operate as yet with the Institute in the matter of exchange. I have a letter this morning from Dr. Duggan in which he tells me that Professor Arthur P. Newton, of the University of London, will arrive in New York early this month, and expects to visit various Canadian Universities during October, returning to New York to begin his course of Exchange Lectures, November 1st. His lectures are to be on the history of the Tudor-Stuart Period.

Would it be possible for us to arrange to have one or two lectures from Professor Newton while he is visiting the University of Toronto? The charges for lectures will be Fifty Dollars ($50.00) each, together with expenses of entertainment.

Yours truly,

J Macfarlane McMurrich

Shaw & Professor Shaw & Wrong.

October 11th, 1919

Professor J. P. McMurrich,
University of Toronto.
Dear Professor McMurrich:

I have made inquiries with regard to Professor Newton and I do not think that he is probably of sufficient standing for us to secure any large audience for him. I have made inquiries both from the History Department and Professor Shaw, who is Chairman of the Special Lectures Committee.

With kind regards and many thanks, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

720

October 20th., 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir Robert:-

It seems probable that I shall have working with me this winter two or possibly three men, ~~for~~ doing advanced work, requiring the use of the Microscope. These are in addition to Dr. Watt and the Richardson Fellow and at present the Department possesses only two Microscopes. If we are to carry on research work and encourage men to undertake it we must be able to supply them with the ordinary tools. My appropriation was cut down by Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars ($250.00) and with the serious demands upon it for equipment for undergraduate work this year, it will be impossible to undertake the purchase from it of such things as Microscopes.

Would it not be possible to make use of some of the Research Fund for this purpose? I ought, at least, to have two more Microscopes. I do not know what the instruments will cost now, but imagine that it will run well on toward Four Hundred Dollars ($400.00), including necessary accessories. If you will kindly let me know whether there are any prospects that these instruments might be purchased from this fund, I will make inquiries as to the exact cost.

Yours very truly,

J. Playfair McMurrich

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

701

November 3rd., 1919.

President Falconer,
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir Robert:-

Since I sent you my list for demonstrators in Anatomy for this year a number of students have been added to the classes, necessitating the employment of an additional ~~demonstrator~~ assistant and I would ask that Dr. H. A. Cates, (249 Dovercourt Road) be appointed ~~Demonstrator~~ assistant in Anatomy, without salary, for the present year.

Further, Dr. Wallace Scott, (627 Sherbourne St.) has returned from overseas and wishes to resume his work upon my staff. As Dr. Cruickshank, who was included in my original list is resigning to go to Beyrout College, Dr. Scott will take over the work that he has been doing and I would recommend that he be appointed ~~Demonstrator~~ assistant in Anatomy for this year at a salary of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars ($150.00); the same as he was receiving before going overseas.

Yours very truly,

J. Playfair McMurrich

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

681

November 13th., 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir Robert:-

I have given the Chairmanship of the Board of Graduate Studies much serious thought during the last few days and have come to the conclusion that for several reasons I had better undertake it. The points concerning which I spoke to you will, of course, require action. My relief from a portion of my work over here can hardly be accomplished this year. It would be difficult to obtain a suitable man now, but I should like to be able to approach men with a view to ascertaining the standard that we might hope to secure. An additional man is very much needed on our staff even if I were not to reduce the time that I devote to the work and the appointment for next year of a suitable man will be merely in line with the necessities of the Department.

It is understood that my endeavour will be to make the Department of Graduate Studies what it seems to me it ought to be, at least equal in rank to any of the other Departments of the University. I shall not, of course, press this point unduly, but shall quietly and perseveringly work towards it so long as I have the opportunity.

If, under these circumstances, you still desire me to take the position, I shall be glad to do so, and will be glad to consult with you at any time as to the arrangements for the Secretaryship and a permanent office for the Board.

Yours sincerely,

J. Playfair McMurrich

November 15th, 1919

Professor J. P. McMurrich,
University of Toronto.

Dear Professor McMurrich:

I am glad to know that you are willing to take the Chairmanship of the Board of Postgraduate Studies, and I will have the appointment made at the next meeting of the Board of Governors.

I shall be glad to see you some time soon and talk the whole situation over, but as I am to be in New York and Montreal next week, we must defer it until the week beginning the 24th.

With kind regards, I am,
Yours sincerely,

President.

645

ANATOMICAL LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Jan: 21st 1920

Dear Sir Robert

Dr Brett was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board of Graduate Studies at a recent meeting (I feared for a time that he would be passed over!) and he and I were appointed a committee to choose an Executive Committee.

We have assumed that the Chairman & Vice-Chairman are ex-officio members of that Committee & have named six others. The Executive Committee is to be composed of six members, according to the motion establishing it and I am not quite sure as to the legality of our proceeding in making it consist of eight. It may be advisable to amend the original motion so as to make the

ANATOMICAL LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Chairman & Vice-Chairman ex-officio members. Otherwise the V.C. might not have a seat in the Committee which would be unfortunate.

Before coming to a final decision as to the Committee, it has seemed proper to Dr Brett myself that we should inform you of our proposals. The members of the Committee that we propose from the Board at large are Messrs DeWitt, Shaw, MacIver, Parks, Fields and Burton. I may recall that the members last year were Coleman (Chairman), Ford, Brett, MacIver, Parks, Fields and McMurrich.

I shall be glad to receive any criticism or suggestions you may make as to our proposed selection

Yours truly

Maryfair McMurrich

November 28th, 1919

Professor J. F. McMurrich,
Biological Building,
University of Toronto.

Dear Professor McMurrich:

Yesterday afternoon you were appointed Chairman of the Board of Graduate Studies by the Board of Governors. I am glad to know that you are willing to take this position and I am sure that it will mean a great deal for the work of the department.

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 21st, 1920

Professor J. P. McMurrich,
University of Toronto.

Dear Professor McMurrich:

I am very glad that Mr. Brett was elected Vice-Chairman. If I am not mistaken the only person about whom there might be any doubt as to his being an ex-officio member is the Vice-Chairman. The Executive Committee has always included the Chairman, and you will remember that there were six other members. I would assume, however, in the meantime that the Vice-Chairman is a member of the Executive Committee, but in order to make it certain, when you bring in your six names report that you assume that the Vice-Chairman is an ex-officio member.

The members whom you have chosen seem to me to represent the various departments of the University work.

There was a general understanding previously that two should retire every year. You have acted on that principle and replaced your name by Burton's and Ford's by Shaw's. I presume that Parks has been so intimately associated with the committee that although it might be his turn to retire every one would think that he should remain and continue on it.

Yours sincerely,

President.

March 29th, 1920

Professor J. P. McMurrich,
Biological Building,
University of Toronto.

Dear Professor McMurrich:

Acting Principal Adams of McGill University is Chairman of the Committee on Graduate Work among the Universities of Canada, and he wishes to get agenda to be brought before the Conference of Universities which is to be held in May. I have told him that I would ask you to send him any suggestions that you may have with regard to this.

Yours sincerely,

- President.

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ANATOMICAL LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

March 31st 1920

Dear President Falconer

As regards matters concerning Graduate Studies to be presented to the Conference of Universities I have nothing very definite to suggest, but have written Dean Adams suggesting that a discussion of the position & status of the Graduate Student in the University Organization might yield some conclusions that would be useful

Yours truly
J Playfair McMurrich

May 3rd, 1920

Professor J. P. McMurrich,
Chairman, Board of Graduate Studies,
University of Toronto.

Dear Professor McMurrich:

I am sending you a letter that I have just received from Professor McLennan. I have not followed the regulations closely, and am not in a position to say whether Professor McLennan's statement is correct or not, but may it not be that there is a confusion in his mind about being allowed to take the work for the degree and the securing of the degree? I can quite see that it might be inadvisable that a student who has received his B.A. in three years should not get his M.A. until at least two years after graduation, but I should hardly suppose that the regulations meant that such a student could not be allowed to enter upon a course of study for an M.A. You, however, will know what is the practice of the Committee with regard to it. I presume that there is a good deal of force in what he says in regard to the difficulty of securing demonstrators.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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ANATOMICAL LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

May 10th 1920.

Dear Sir Robert

During your absence Dean Webster of the Dental College came to me with a request for a written statement as to what the University could do in the way of a course in Practical Anatomy for the Dental Students next year. He wished to submit such a statement to his Board of Directors, then in session. I drew up the enclosed statement & sent it to Dr Webster Saturday morning last, as a personal opinion. It is proper that you should see it & I shall be glad to talk over with you, if necessary, any of the points raised

Yours truly

Maybee McMurrich

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

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May 7th., 1920.

Dean Webster,

Royal College of Dental Surgeons.

Dear Dr. Webster:-

You have asked me for a statement of the conditions that confront us in connection with the course in Anatomy for Dental Students for next year.

There are two conditions that affect the situation seriously, (1) the amount of space available for laboratory purposes and (2) the supply of cadavers, and I regret to say that there is no prospect that there will be in either of these particulars resources adequate to the demand that will be created by the very large prospective classes of next year.

The University has an Anatomical Laboratory that will comfortably accomodate not many more than 100 students. By doubling the number of students at work at each table about 250 may be accomodated. In the past session there were 446 students working at once during the Michaelmas term and the conditions were most unsatisfactory, the room being exceedingly overcrowded and the students so grouped about the tables that satisfactory work was impossible both for the students and the instructors. Next year there is a prospect of 350 or more medical students and 300 dentals, a total of between 650 and 700 and for this number standing room could hardly be found in the laboratory, much less space for work. The question of available space, then, by itself is sufficient reason for the statement that in the coming year it will

be impossible for the University to give the students of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons a course of instruction in practical anatomy similar to that given in preceding years.

As regards the second particular it may be said that judging from past experience there are not enough cadavers available from the entire Province to supply material for such a class. If the number of students assigned to a part were to remain as in former years about 140 cadavers would be required, a number far beyond the total received by all the Colleges of the Province in any year. Indeed, even if the number of men ordinarily assigned to each part were doubled the number of available cadavers would still be insufficient, and such an increase in the assignment, even if feasible, would make satisfactory and profitable work well-nigh impossible.

Consequently, even if space were available, I should feel obliged to recommend to the University authorities that in the coming year no Occasional students be enrolled in the class in Practical Anatomy unless it be clearly understood that the instruction given such students may be modified so as to meet the conditions that face us. I am convinced, that for several reasons the first duty of the University, so far as the work in Practical Anatomy is concerned, is to the students of the Medical Department, but I fear that even in their case some modification of the course will be necessary in the coming session.

These are the difficulties. What modifications can be suggested whereby they may be lessened? These I have already discussed

with you in some detail and I need only make a brief statement regarding them here. I suggest that, if possible, the Dental Students be given a demonstration course. Instead of actually doing the dissection themselves, preparations already dissected will be demonstrated to them and afterwards studied by them in small groups, much in the manner in which they now study Osteology. Much time will be saved thereby and I believe that each student will be able to acquire a much more thorough knowledge of the parts studied than was the case even this year. A much smaller number of cadavers would be required and the difficulty due to lack of space would be overcome by scattering the demonstrations and group work through the morning hours when our lecture and demonstration rooms are for the most part unoccupied. I may say that I have given, elsewhere, to dental students, a course based on similar lines with most satisfactory results.

Such in general is the plan I have in mind, but to be perfectly frank I must confess there are difficulties in the way of its accomplishment. These are the difficulties in finding competent men to make the preparations required and the difficulty in finding a sufficient number of competent men to give the demonstrations. The large class and the method of instruction will require a large number of demonstrators and a greater demand on their time than usual; this will mean an increased expenditure and whether it may be provided I cannot, of course, say.

The carrying on of such a course will involve an amount of labour on the part of Dr. Watt and myself which I contemplate with

dismay, but I am willing to do what I can to make it a success in order that the present relations of the Dental School and the University may be maintained. I understand that the impression has gone abroad that the University intends to decline giving instruction in Practical Anatomy to the Dental students this year. This, I believe, is due to a misunderstanding. It is true that the lack of space and material makes it impossible that the University should offer a course such as has been given in the past and I have been told that it was extremely improbable that the Dental College would accept such a modification as I have suggested. Under these circumstances nothing but a severance of the present relations seemed possible. Furthermore, there seemed to be good reasons for believing in the correctness of rumours to the effect that the Dental College proposed after this year to give its own course in Practical Anatomy in the College building.

Taking these facts into consideration it does not seem remarkable that the impression should have arisen that no accomodation could or need be made for Dental students in the Anatomical Laboratory this coming year. But I do not believe that the initiation of the impression can be attributed to the University.

A situation has arisen out of war conditions for which the University cannot be held responsible and it must not be forgotten that this situation is a transitory one. It seems very unlikely that such large classes will have to be accomodated even next year and if the proposed new Anatomical Laboratory should be built ample accomodation would be provided for any class likely to be enrolled

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

for many years to come.

You will understand, of course, that what I have stated in this letter is merely a personal expression of opinion; I have no authority to speak for the University. I can assure you, however, that if the Dental College decides to continue use of the resources of the University for their course in Practical Anatomy and if the University authorities approve of such a course as I have suggested, the Anatomical Department will endeavour, in so far as its facilities permit, to make the course a success.

Yours truly,

[J.P. McMurrich]

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

549

May 27th., 1920.

(C O P Y)

Prof. J. P. McMurrich,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

My Dear Prof. McMurrich:-

Your letter of May 7th., re practical Anatomy for Dental Students, was presented to the Board of Directors and after considerable discussion it was decided that in as much as an addition had to be made to the dental Building to prepare for an additional class in dentistry that practical Anatomy might well be taught in the dental College until the new Anatomy building was erected.

On behalf of the Faculty allow me to thank you for the interest you have taken in this matter and for the very excellent statement of the position of Anatomy teaching as it appears to-day.

Yours sincerely,

A. E. Webster,

Dean.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS.

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

548

May 28th., 1920.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir Robert:-

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have just received from Dean Webster, from which you will see that the Directors of the Dental College have decided to take care of their own instruction in Anatomy; at least, until our new Anatomy Building is completed.

This relieves the situation for the coming year, but introduces other factors which are rather serious. However, the action comes from them, for in my letter to Dean Webster, of which I sent you a copy, I offered to do what was possible to carry on the Dental work here.

Yours very truly,

J. Playfair McMurrich